

### **Amendments to the Specification**

Please delete the word "Description" on page 1, line 1.

Please add the following prior to the paragraph that begins at page 1, line 6:

#### **BACKGROUND**

Please add the following prior to the paragraph that begins at page 4, line 12:

#### **SUMMARY**

Please add the following prior to the paragraph that begins at page 6, line 17:

#### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

Please add the following prior to the paragraph that begins at page 7, line 18:

#### **DESCRIPTION**

Please replace the section entitled "Abstract" by deleting the text on page 24 and replacing the deleted section with the following replacement section showing all changes relative to the previous version of the section:

#### ~~Abstract~~ **ABSTRACT**

~~Apparatus~~ An apparatus is disclosed for filtering data symbols (ES) for a decision based data processing system (7). The apparatus includes ~~having~~ a buffer store (13) for buffer-storing a sequence of n sequentially received data symbols (ES). The apparatus also includes ~~and having~~ an nth-order median filter (24) which calculates the minimum

intervals ( $a_{\min}$ ) between the  $n$  buffer-stored data symbols and nominal data symbols ( $ES_{\text{nominal}}$ ) and filters out that data symbol whose calculated minimum interval ( $a_{\min}$ ) has a mean value for the calculated minimum intervals.

**Figure 5**